



Command Message COLORADO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

May 2019



Every day, great things are happening throughout the Colorado Army National Guard. Our team members are accomplishing the mission with real dedication, while also reaching professional development and education goals, and serving our Colorado community. We want to highlight the people of our Guard with you in this month's command message.

May is a full of observances and events in which we will honor our service members and their families:

National Military Appreciation Month is celebrated every May and is a declaration that encourages U.S. citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity. The purpose of this month-long commemoration honors the current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom.

The month of May is characterized by six national observances which highlight the contributions of those who have served including: **Loyalty Day** May 1; **Public Service Recognition Week** May 5-11; **Victory in Europe Day** May 8, **Military Spouse Appreciation Day** May 10; **Armed Forces Day** May 18 and **Memorial Day** May 27.



The Colorado Army National Guard's 101st Army Rock Band will play at the Northern Colorado Memorial Day event at Horsetooth Park in Fort Collins on Memorial Day.

May is also recognized nationally as **Asian-American & Pacific Heritage Month**. Individuals of Asian and Pacific Islander descent have historically served in the Army with great valor and distinction and continue to be critical members of the Colorado Army National Guard team. Nearly 59,000 Soldiers who identify as Asian American/Pacific Islander serve in the Total Army Force including approximately 14,000 in the National Guard. The contributions and achievements of individuals of Asian/Pacific Islander descent illustrates the strength of a diverse Army.

May 12 we celebrate **Mother's Day**. Mothers who are members of the military community deserve special recognition for their love, dedication, and sacrifice, each and every day. Mother's Day is the perfect opportunity to celebrate and honor the mother or military wife, and/or a service member mom.

Retention continues to trend upward this year thanks to the efforts of unit leadership and the Soldiers who make our organization better. The greatest asset of the Colorado Army National Guard is our people - intelligent, adaptable and professional Soldiers who are the face of our nation and state. The Soldiers and veterans of our National Guard proudly live the Army Values and inspire others with your professionalism and honorable service. Let's continue those efforts to keep the Rocky Mountain Professionals we have in our formations. We need everyone at their best and ready to fight!

The new Army Combat Fitness Test is coming in October 2020. The new ACFT handbook is available on the CONG app under Fitness. Start preparing now!



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